

# County Snapshot

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**Solano County**, primarily located in the Sacramento Valley, also adjoins the northeast section of the San Francisco Bay Area. It is surrounded by four counties: Napa County to the northwest; Yolo County to the northeast; Sacramento County to the east; and Contra Costa County to the south.

Solano County's 1999 population of 392,200 will grow to a projected population of 552,100 by 2020. Solano is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and the gain in new residents will be approximately 159,900 or 40 percent.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for the county to be 190,100 with an unemployment rate of 4.6 percent. This compares with the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent for the same year.

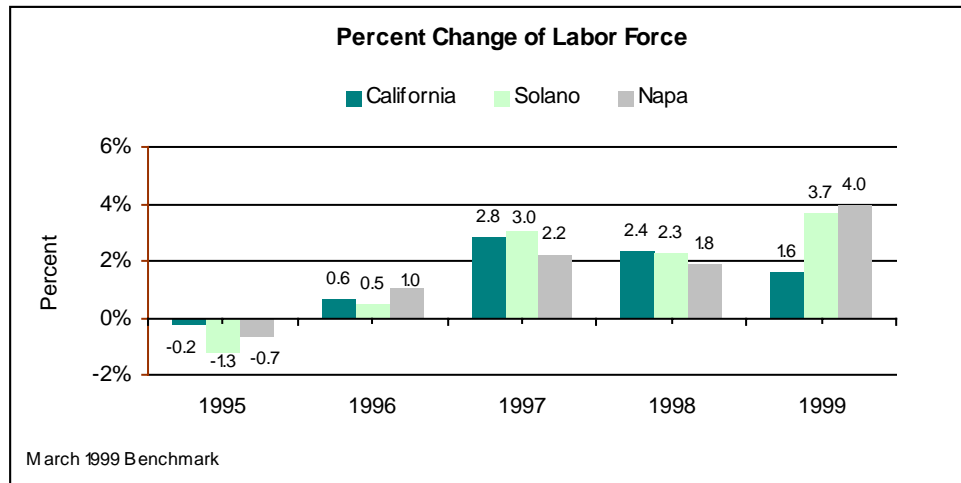
Services is the largest industry sector in the county, accounting for 24.4 percent of total employment, with health services being a large component. Retail trade (23.2 percent) and government (21.8 percent) are also major employment sectors.

Services is also the fastest growing industry sector with a seven year projected growth of 36.3 percent. An increase of over 1,000 job openings is projected for health services.

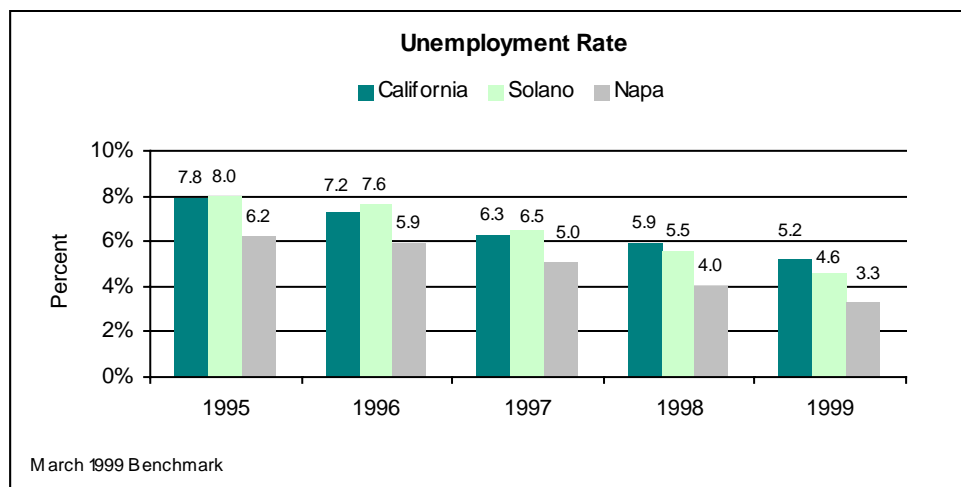
Solano County will continue to show steady industry employment growth along with a steady increase in population.

## LABOR FORCE

In 1996, Solano County began to show positive labor force gains very comparable to the state. The gains enjoyed by Solano County are reflected in the overall 9.8 percent change for the 1995-1999 period. Neighboring Napa County maintained 9.4 percent change during the same period.

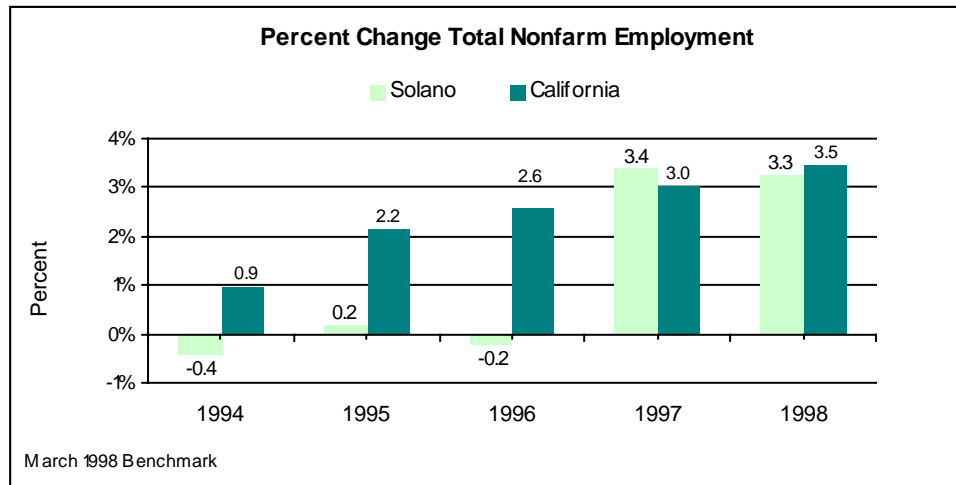


Since 1995, unemployment rates for Solano and Napa counties have shown a steady decline, indicative of the increasing employment opportunities in the area. The rate for Solano County has consistently mirrored that of the state, staying within a few tenths of a percentage point, over the 1995 – 1999 period.

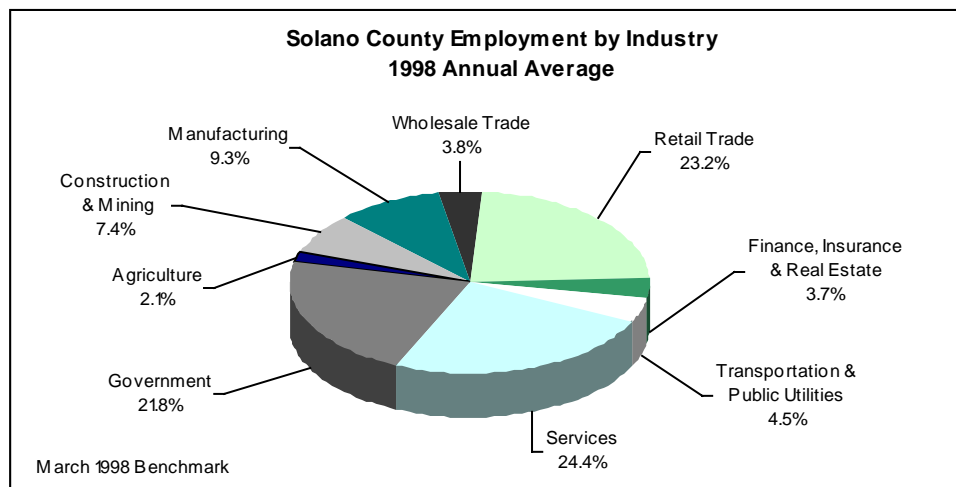


## INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Solano County's wage and salary employment bounced back to show strong growth (3.4 percent) in 1997. Payroll employment in 1998 grew by 3,300 jobs or 3.3 percent. Services accounted for 52 percent of this growth with business services being the dominant component.



In 1998, Solano County's employment was dominated by the services, retail trade and government sectors. During the forecast period of 1995 to 2002 it is expected that more than 75 percent of job growth will be in services, manufacturing, and retail trade.



## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Solano County is projected to have many employment opportunities in these high turnover occupations.

Associated Occupations	<b>SERVICES</b> <b>1995 - 2002 Projected Growth 36.3%</b>
	<b>Registered Nurses – 570 job openings.</b> Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the condition of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$23.43
	<b>Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 450 job openings.</b> Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.44
	<b>General Office Clerks – 260 job openings.</b> Performs a wide variety of tasks. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with the office procedures of the individual establishments and may include a combination of bookkeeping, typing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.10
	<b>Janitors, Cleaners, Except Maids – 240 job openings.</b> Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.73
	<b>General Managers, Top Executives – 220 job openings.</b> Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$29.58
Associated Occupations	<b>MANUFACTURING</b> <b>1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 22.4%</b>
	<b>Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 260 job openings.</b> Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.03
	<b>Truck Drivers, Heavy – 110 job openings.</b> Drive tractor-trailer combinations or trucks with a capacity of more than three tons to transport and deliver goods, livestock, or materials in liquid, loose or packaged form. They may be required to unload trucks. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.45
	<b>Machinery Maintenance Mechanics, NEC – 80 job openings.</b> Repair and maintain the operating condition of industrial production and processing machinery, printing machinery, and refinery and pipeline distribution systems. Duties include repairing machinery and mechanical equipment. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.72
	<b>General Managers, Top Executives – 70 job openings.</b> Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$29.58
	<b>General Office Clerks – 40 job openings.</b> Performs a wide variety of tasks. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with the office procedures of the individual establishments and may include a combination of bookkeeping, typing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.10
Associated Occupations	<b>RETAIL TRADE</b> <b>1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 14.5%</b>
	<b>Salesperson, Retail – 760 job openings.</b> Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.93
	<b>Cashiers – 500 job openings.</b> Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.84
	<b>Waiters And Waitresses – 310 job openings.</b> Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.91
	<b>Food Preparation Workers – 180 job openings.</b> Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean, move supplies and wash dishes, trays, pots and pans used in cooking and serving. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.66
	<b>Automotive Mechanics – 150 job openings.</b> Adjust, repair, and overhaul automotive vehicles. They may be designated according to specialties. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - 16.27

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:  
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